

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 26 October 2010

**TIME:** 2:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Conference Room A  
Department of Administration

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Council:** **Present:** Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Chair), Raymond C. Coia, Esq., John X. Donahue, Joseph L. Dowling, M.D., John W. Flynn, Wallace Gernt, Maria Gil, Robert Hamel, R.N., Theresa Jeremiah, Amy Lapierre, Steven Lonardo, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Daniel Orgel, MPA, Denise Panichas, Robert Ricci, Reverend David Shire (Vice-Chair)

**Excused:** Gary J. Gaube, Catherine E. Graziano, R.N., Ph.D.

**Not Present:** Robert Whiteside

**Staff:** Valentina D. Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Adelita Orefice, MPA Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

**Public:** (Attached)

**1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms, Time Extension for the Minutes Availability and Election of Vice Chair of the Health Services Council.**

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 PM. Minutes of the Health Services Council meeting of 31 August 2010 were adopted as submitted. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of fifteen in favor and none opposed (15-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Gil, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Ricci, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the Election of Vice Chair of the Health Services Council. The nominations for Vice Chair of the Health Services Council Officers were as follows: Reverend David Shire. There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. The Council Members cast their ballots. The results of the election of the Vice Chair were as follows: Reverend David Shire – 16 votes.

**2. General Order of Business**

The next item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of C.P. Atlas Holdings, Inc. for change in effective control of American Renal Holdings, Inc. including: ARA - Rhode Island Dialysis II, LLC d/b/a Kidney Health Center of East Providence*

*and Kidney Health Center of Woonsocket.* Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Gernt, seconded by Mr. Coia and passed by a vote of fourteen in favor, none opposed, and two recusals (14-0-2) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Coia, Donahue, Flynn, Gernt, Gil, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Ricci, Shire. Those members recusing were: Almeida, Dowling.

The next item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of **Sun Healthcare Group, Inc.** for change in effective control of Harborside Rhode Island Limited Partnership d/b/a Greenwood Care and Rehabilitation Center and Pawtuxet Village Care and Rehabilitation Center.* Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

The Council discussed the track record of the applicant. Staff noted that no advisory was provided from the Office of Facilities Regulations. Ms. Orefice, Executive Director, Division of Environmental and Health Services regulation, noted the consent agreement and quality monitor currently in place.

A motion to recommend approval was made by Mr. Madden conditional upon receipt of written confirmation from the Office of Facilities Regulation that Pawtuxet Village is presently in substantial compliance with licensure requirements and those contained in the attached consent agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gil and passed by a vote of sixteen in favor and none opposed (16-0) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Gil, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Ricci, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the *Report to the Health Services Council on the application of **Chad Brown Health Center d/b/a Chad Brown Health Center at Dexter Manor** for initial licensure as an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility to provide primary care and mental health services at Dexter Manor in Providence.* Staff summarized the application and reviewed the expedited review process.

The applicant made a presentation to the Council regarding the proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Gernt, seconded by Mr. Coia and passed by a vote of sixteen in favor and none opposed (16-0) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Gil, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Ricci, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of **Rhode Island Home Care, Inc.** for initial licensure as a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency in Providence.*

Staff distributed two letters from RI Home Care and noted that these letters had been scanned and sent electronically to the members of the full Health Services Council. The Chair provided time for the members to review the letters. Mr. D'Amico, Chairman of the Board of Rhode Island Home Care, requested that there be a stay in the proceedings.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Dowling, seconded by Mr. Coia and passed by a vote of fifteen in favor and none opposed (15-0) to postpone this application until the next meeting of the Health Services Council. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Gil, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Orgel, Panichas, Ricci, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of **Butler Hospital** to construct a 2-story addition and increase licensed bed capacity and update the patient assessment service area.* Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

Dr. Recupero, President of Butler Hospital, summarized the application for the Council.

Ms. Lapierre recognized the value of mental health services and stated that the Committee heard testimony that there is no waiting to get into a psych bed (that it's less than a day). She questioned whether there is a need for additional beds. She stated that Rhode Island Hospital presented information that it reviewed 300 psychiatric patients and analyzed what could be done to avoid admission. It was the immediate availability of a psychiatrist. She noted that if we are able to build on the community services available perhaps the most expensive form of care can be avoided. She pointed out that outpatient visits have been flat from 2005-2009 at Butler and geriatric visits have gone down. She noted that more diversion beds coming on line from STARR. She stated that Harvey Zimmerman's report didn't take into consideration diversion beds. She further noted that there are other hospitals in the state that have lower occupancy rates than Butler and have available psych beds. She said that all of this questions the need for additional beds. She then suggested that if the Council does recommend approval that it address access to uninsured and underinsured at Butler. She noted that letter from STARR and others make reference to that issue.

Mr. Lonardo noted when the Council looks at building inpatient capacity it is the Council's prerogative to make sure that it vetted everything out and considered all the alternatives. He noted that Mr. Stenning presented information on a program for a particular population that indicated the effectiveness of alternative programs in terms of mitigating the need for inpatient bed use. He believes commitment to alternative services should involve the payors. He noted that Blue Cross covers alternative levels of care. He stated that this needs to involve the providers and stakeholders to start looking at systemic changes. He said that the Blue Cross advisory speaks for itself and noted the presentation of Beacon Strategies.

Mr. Donahue stated that he would support that the model presented by Beacon Strategies be considered by the stakeholders.

Dr. Dowling made a motion to approve the application and the motion was seconded. The Council further discussed the application. Ms. Panichas stated that this is not a 'one size fits all' and requested Mr. Stenning to comment.

Mr. Stenning, Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (“BHDDH”) stated that even with the variance beds in place, there is still a problem in placing patients. He stated that he supports this application.

The Chair noted the comments made by Director Stenning to the Council in support of the application. The Chair stated that community based treatments are wonderful for the right patient but not for every case.

Dr. Girard, Memorial Hospital, stated that he supports this proposal conditioned upon provision for the uninsured and underinsured.

Dr. Rome, Beacon Health Strategies, stated that the proposal would add 6 beds for \$17 million. He questioned whether 6 more beds will have the desired effect and whether that money could be used more effectively. He stated that some of the money should be invested in alternatives.

Mr. Gernt stated that what is being suggested are state policies that are years away. He stated that the need is now. He noted the dignity of patients and ability to get services. He said this is not an either or situation. He noted that BCBSRI needs to be part of the solution.

Mr. Donahue stated that the suggested conditions in the letter of 25 January 2010 from BHDDH be incorporated as conditions of approval.

Mr. Dowling amended his motion to include the BHDDH letter as a condition. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coia and passed by a vote of eleven in favor, two opposed, and two recusals (11-2-2) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval as amended. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Gil, Jeremiah, Orgel, Panichas, Ricci. Those members voting in opposition were: Lapierre, Lonardo. Those members recusing were: Hamel, Shire.

### **3. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA  
Health Economics Specialist